

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

## 72-HOUR REPORT

29 AUGUST 2016

### (U) CALIFORNIA

#### (U) Escondido—Feds Seize \$3 Million from Smuggling Suspects

(U) More than \$3 million in cash destined for Mexico was found in two cars in Escondido on 23 August, the largest cash seizure ever made by US Border Patrol agents in San Diego County, authorities said Friday. The two suspects, a US and a Mexican citizen, driving separate cars southbound on Interstate 15, were turned over to Homeland Security Investigations. They pleaded not guilty in federal court on 24 August to charges of willfully concealing currency in excess of \$10,000 and intent to take the money out of the US to Mexico.

SOURCE: 26 August 2016, [San Diego Union-Tribune](#)

### (U) NATIONAL

#### (U) District of Columbia—FDA Issues Emergency Use Authorization for Zika Test

(U) Washington—The US Food and Drug Administration today issued emergency authorization for a Zika diagnostics test from Swiss drugmaker Roche, skirting normal approval channels as the regulator moves to fight the disease's spread. With FDA approval, Roche's test now can be used to screen patients exhibiting Zika symptoms that meet CDC criteria, including fever, rash, joint pain and red eyes. Through last week, the US reported 2,517 Zika cases, 29 of which were likely acquired locally in Florida through mosquito bites and the rest brought in by travelers, the US CDC said.

SOURCE: 29 August 2016, [Reuters](#)

#### (U) District of Columbia—Foreign Hackers Penetrated State Election Systems, Says FBI

(U) Washington—The FBI has uncovered evidence that foreign hackers penetrated two state election databases in recent weeks, prompting the bureau to warn election officials across the country to take new steps to enhance the security of their computer systems, according to federal and state law enforcement officials. The warning, which was issued in a “flash” alert from the FBI’s Cyber Division, does not identify the states in question, but sources familiar with the document say it refers to the targeting by suspected foreign hackers of voter registration databases in Arizona and Illinois.

SOURCE: 29 August 2016, [Yahoo News](#)

### (U) INTERNATIONAL

#### (U) Belgium—Arson Attack Damages Crime Lab

(U) Brussels—Attackers set fire to Belgium’s national forensic crime laboratory early this morning, causing severe damage and potentially destroying DNA and other evidence considered crucial to cases involving terrorism, officials said. The target of the attack was the National Institute of Criminalistics and Criminology, which is part of the federal justice department and is Belgium’s center for forensic research, including the examination of biological and ballistics evidence. No one was wounded in the attack, which occurred around 2 a.m. and destroyed part of the lab. The possibility of a terrorism connection is still to be confirmed, according to investigators.

SOURCE: 29 August 2016, [New York Times](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****(U) Cuba—FARC Sets Permanent Cease-Fire under Columbia Peace Deal**

(U) Havana—The commander of Colombia's biggest rebel movement said yesterday its fighters will permanently cease hostilities with the government beginning at 12:01 a.m. today as a result of their peace accord, ending one of the world's longest-running conflicts. FARC leader Rodrigo Londono, also known as Timochenko, made his announcement in Havana, Cuba, where rebel and government negotiators talked for four years to reach the deal, marking a major step in ending the 52-year conflict. Colombia is expected to hold a national referendum 2 October to give voters the chance to approve the accord, which will likely pass.

SOURCE: 28 August 2016, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) Mexico—Homicides Reach Milestone in July**

(U) Mexico City—Violence in Mexico has been on the rise in recent months as fragmented criminal organizations clash around the country, competing with Mexican authorities and one another for control of illegal enterprises. July data released by the Mexican government recorded 2,073 killings for that month—the most of any month since President Enrique Peña Nieto entered office in December 2012 and the first time the country exceeded 2,000 homicides in a month since August 2011. The previous high in monthly homicides registered under Peña Nieto was 1,895, recorded in May.

SOURCE: 28 August 2016, [Business Insider](#)

**(U) Philippines—ISIL Supporters Stage Mass Jailbreak**

(U) Marawi—Muslim extremists who support the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) group staged a jailbreak in the southern Philippines, freeing 23 detainees in the latest in a series of mass escapes, officials said yesterday. About 50 heavily armed members of the Maute group raided the local jail in the southern city of Marawi on Mindanao Island on 27 August and freed eight comrades who were arrested less than a week ago, police said. It was the latest of several mass escapes from poorly secured Philippine jails, with the incidents often involving Muslim extremists.

SOURCE: 28 August 2016, [AFP](#)

**(U) Yemen—ISIL Suicide Attack Kills 45 Government Fighters**

(U) Sanaa—A suicide car bombing claimed by ISIL in Yemen's southern city of Aden today killed at least 45 pro-government recruits, officials said. The men were at a staging area near two schools and a mosque when a pickup truck accelerated through the building's gate as a food delivery arrived, exploding amid the crowd, witnesses said. An additional 60 were wounded by the blast, made up mostly of recruits signing up to join a new unit that will ultimately be made up of 5,000 fighters that will deploy to the Saudi cities of Najran and Jizan, near the border with Yemen.

SOURCE: 29 August 2016, [Associated Press](#)

**(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER****(U) Mexico—Hidden Tunnel Discovered on Sonora-Arizona Border**

(U) Nogales—Mexican authorities have uncovered a hidden tunnel from the northwestern state of Sonora to Arizona in the United States, the National Commission for Security said yesterday. The tunnel, which extended more than 30 meters into the US, was discovered when Mexican police noticed a difference in the surface of the concrete while inspecting a drainage pipe that crosses the border. The tunnel was “apparently in the process of construction, without an exit on the surface,” the CNS said.

SOURCE: 28 August 2016, [AFP](#)

**(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL [STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV](mailto:STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV), OR CALL 916-636-2900.**

*Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.*

*This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.*

**UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY**